

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A DNA comprising a base sequence encoding one of the following polypeptide (a) or (b):

(a) a polypeptide comprising the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence derived from an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 by deletion, substitution or addition of a part of the amino acids and having a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

2. (Original) A DNA as set forth in one of the following (a), (b), or (c),

(a) a DNA which encodes the full length or a part of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 derived from the base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:16, or SEQ ID NO:19,

(b) a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a base sequence complementary to the DNA as set forth in (a) under a stringent condition, and

(c) a DNA which hybridizes with DNA comprising a base sequence complementary to the DNA as set forth in (a) under a stringent condition, and encoding a protein which has a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

3. (Original) A gene derived from a rodent and comprising the DNA according to claim 1 or 2.

4. (Original) A gene according to claim 3, wherein the rodent is a mouse.

5. (Original) A polypeptide as set forth in one of the following (a) or (b),

(a) a polypeptide comprising the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence which is the same or substantially the same as an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18, and

(b) a polypeptide comprising the full length or a part of an amino acid sequence derived from an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:15 or SEQ ID NO:18 by deletion, substitution or addition of a part of the amino acids and having a biological activity substantially equivalent to the polypeptide (a).

6. (Currently Amended) A polypeptide according to claim 5 comprising a recombinant protein generated in a host cell in which the DNA according to claim 1 or 2, ~~or the gene according to claim 3 or 4~~ is introduced.

7. (Currently Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA according to claim 1 or 2 ~~or the gene according to claim 3 or 4~~.

8. (Original) A recombinant animal cell in which the recombinant vector according to claim 7 is introduced.

9. (Original) A recombinant animal in which the recombinant vector according to claim 7 is introduced.

10. (Currently Amended) An antibody which specifically binds to the polypeptide according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the DNA according to claim 1 or 2, ~~according to the gene of claim 3 or 4~~.

12. (Original) A gene expression measurement kit used for the screening method according to claim 11.

13. (Currently Amended) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the polypeptide according to claim 5 ~~or~~ 6.

14. (Original) A polypeptide binding substance measurement kit used in the screening method according to claim 13.

15. (Currently Amended) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using ~~the recombinant animal or the recombinant animal cell~~ according to claim 8 ~~or~~ 9.

16. (Original) A vascular proliferation and differentiation control activity measurement kit used in the screening method according to claim 15 to measure the activity of the factor or compound.

17. (Original) A screening method which screens a vascular proliferation and differentiation control factor or compound using the antibody according to claim 10.

18. (Original) An antibody titer measurement kit used in the screening method according to claim 17.

19. (Original) An angiogenesis inhibitor which contains one of polypeptide of (a) or (b) as an active ingredient:

(a) a polypeptide comprising whole or a part of the amino acid sequence identical or substantially identical to the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:18,

(b) a polypeptide comprising whole or a part of the amino acid sequence which is derived from the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 18, by deletion, substitution, or addition and has a biological activity substantially equivalent to that of the polypeptide of (a).